TIMES-VIRGINIAN
In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt
Appomattox, Virginia

VIRGINIA PRESS ASSOCIATION

ESTABLISHED 1892

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Robinson ...... *Editors and Publishers*

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Appomattox, Virginia, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Address all correspondence to the Times-Virginian, Appomattox, Va. Subscription rate: $2 a year, payable in advance. Single copy 5c. National advertising representative: Weekly Newspaper Representatives, Inc., 920 Broadway, New York City. Advertising rates upon request.

OUR MOSCOW EMBASSY

An American congressman, recently returned from a visit to Moscow, says the United States Embassy in Moscow is a disgrace. He says that the greatest country on earth should put up a good front in the Russian capital and that our Embassy is not doing it.

The congressman was not criticizing the personnel of the Embassy, and even expressed belief that U. S. Embassy personnel in Moscow are the most efficient in the foreign service. But he criticized the condition which has our Ambassador driving around in a five-year-old car, with a dent in its fender and which has to spend much of its time in the garage.

He also criticized the state of the Embassy building, which is in bad repair—although it is a comparatively new building. The congressman wants the United States to see to it that the U. S. Ambassador puts up a good front and that our Embassy looks like it represents the most modern and greatest nation on earth. We agree with him.

We think the U. S. Ambassador in Moscow should drive the finest and best automobile the United States produces and that he should fly the American flag proudly on it when he goes about his visits in Moscow, so that Muscovites will see just what the United States turns out in the way of luxurious automobiles. Moreover, we think it would be a good idea for several other Embassy officials to drive such cars.

We think this is good business in Communist countries only and we do not advocate such a policy in all the countries of the world. In addition, we think the Embassy should be made to look quite imposing and that it should be kept in a splendid condition at all times. The Russians appreciate a good show and we ought to give them one in Moscow, at the one place we can—the United States Embassy.

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THE FORRESTAL

The Navy's greatest warship, the new carrier Forrestal, recently had a trial run off the Virginia capes. Although the run was not completely successful, the huge ship went through its first paces, and the public got its first view of the monstrous warship in action.

The Forrestal has a tremendous surface deck area. It features the new type slanted take-off deck, plus a long and wide straight deck, extending beyond it. It is possible for one aircraft to be landing while another takes off on the Forrestal, and it is even possible for two to land almost simultaneously.

The sight of the huge carrier preceding off the Virginia capes brings to mind what a huge target the Forestal's great deck area makes it. Viewing the carrier from the air, one cannot gaze upon it without realizing that it is a huge target.

However, this fact alone does not make it vulnerable or obsolete. That question will be finally answered only in a new war, if there is one. But it is true to say that the Navy will have a tremendous job protecting these giant warships from atomic attacks.

It may be that they can be of great service in many areas of the world, but we question the theory whether such huge carriers will ever again be able to probe into contested areas, where one small atom bomb could wreck so much ship, kill so many men and destroy so many modern aircraft.

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THE APPROACH OF AUTUMN

Autumn begins this year at 2:42 P. M. on the 23rd of this month. Autumn is a middle season, coming after Summer and before Winter, and featuring moderate average temperatures.

Astronomically, Autumn begins with the autumnal equinox and ends with the Winter solstice, which comes just before Christmas, in December. The sun enters Libra at the autumnal equinox and enters Capricorn in December, when Winter comes. Astronomically, then, Autumn includes most of December.

In popular speech and habits, many people refer to Autumn as including the months of September, October and November. Under this custom, December is a Winter month, and September is an Autumn month. However, from the astronomical viewpoint, September is a Summer month and this year only seven days of September are astronomical Autumn days.

The full moon of October 1st, coming about seven days after the autumnal equinox, is the Harvest Moon this year. September usually contains the Harvest Moon, but in a case such as this year's the Harvest Moon falls in October.

It is a common notion that the Harvest Moon is different from all other full moons during the year, and this is not technically incorrect. At the autumnal equinox, the earth's satellite rises for several nights in succession close to the same hour.

Although this phenomenon is less plainly observed in this country, it is very noticeable in countries further north. So, tales about the Harvest Moon allowing farmers to gather their crops several nights during this time of year, after sundown, are not incorrect.

* * * * * * *

RUSSIANS AT FORT BENNING

Military officials recently invited Russian officials to view U. S. installations at Fort Benning, which is a major Army installation in Georgia, and is the training home of many U. S. paratroopers.

This, coming on the heels of the visit of Russian farmers to Midwestern farm lands, is another example of the thawing of the cold war between the United States and Russia. The Russian farm leaders who visited this country went back home with many good ideas and, no doubt, will put some of them to ues to increase Russia's agreccultural production and standards.

We suppose this is all right, and the Russians are willing to let the United States come to Russia and survey agricultural methods, but we have our doubts about allowing Russian officials to visit U. S. military installations. We are of the opinion that the Reds would not consider such a thing in Russia (on a comparable scale, and that if they did open military installations to U. S. observers, they would carefully screen from them any important sights.

The agricultural exchange is an example of our friendly spirit, but we do not think this should be carried too far. In such exchanges, the Russians have the most to gain, for they are the backward country and the United States is the advanced country from a technological standpoint. Therefore, there is very little American farmers can learn from bogged-down Russian farms, and there is very much the Russians can learn from our own farms.

We hope military authorities will go slowly in inviting Russians to visit our military installations. We do not expect such gestures from Russia, and we ought not to do anything that will not be reciprocated on the other side.

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Religious doctrines have been steadily improved over the years; those who refuse to believe improvements are still to be made assume they have all the answers and the last word.

A CHANCE TO TEACH HISTORY

(From the Editorial Page of The Richmond News-Leader)

The Centennial observance of the Civil War is almost upon the South. More than 90 years have elapsed since the day of the Confederacy. Within less than six years' time the 100th anniversary of the firing on Fort Sumter will take place.

Plans already are under way for observance of the Centennial. Two years ago, at the institution of the Virginia Travel Council, there was formed an All-South Committee. It already has met twice, and this coming September in Montgomery, Ala., with Walter N. Chinn, Jr., of Fredericksburg, presiding, members of the committee will convene to issue a call for each Southern State to choose representatives for a Southern States Congress.

It will be a States' Rights affair, with each State directing its own Centennial observance. The Congress' principal task will be to coordinate the efforts of the various states.

As now conceived, the chief purpose of the Centennial observance will be to attract visitors to the South. Pageants, parades, tours, festivals, expositions, speeches and programs will be staged.

Not only the War, but also the century of change that has succeeded it, will be commemorated. A preliminary Centennial Committee declares that "the focus should be on the present and the future, based on a century of progress."

Virginia's own possible plans include increased attention to the battlefield parks, a peanut exposition, a tobacco festival, and so on. The hope is that revenues from tourists will make it possible to develop the State's battlefield parks, and even perhaps to create parks where none now exist. There is, for example, no battlefield park of any consequence to commemorate the brilliant Valley Campaign of Stonewall Jackson. Perhaps the scene of one of more of Jackson's victories may be made into a park.

The foresight of the Virginia Travel Council and others in planning for the Centennial is commendable. It is hardly too soon now to begin getting ready for the observance. It will be a tremendous undertaking, and the task of seeing that it is done right will be demanding indeed.

Nevertheless, we are not entirely happy over the way plans are shaping up. It is fine to bring in the tourists, and we are all for presenting the South to the nation as effectively and as attractively as possible. The bigger the show the better, in that respect.

Yet it seems to us that in concentrating almost exclusively on enticing tourist dollars to the South, the most important single aspect of the hundredth anniversary of the Civil War may be overlooked, or at the most relegated to a subordinate role.

The Civil War was not just a show. It meant something. It still means something. What Virginia and the South are today, what the United States of America is today, they are because of the Civil War. Cutting as it did through the heart of a nation, leaving scars a hundred years' deep, the Civil War was and is the most important, most far-reaching event in American history.

For four years Virginia and the South fought a desperate war against incredible odds. It was the South's finest time. The South was beaten; yet out of the Lost Cause has sprung a tradition that has for almost a hundred years been a glory to the South.

The Centennial of the Civil War will be an historical event of the first magnitude. It will provide an unparalleled opportunity to teach Americans the real meaning of their country's past. That is the most important thing about the coming Centennial.

It is not in material "progress," in enhanced industrial development, in resplendent commercial showmanship, that Virginia and the South may most suitably instruct the rest of the nation. The States of the North and the West do not need the South to teach them those things. Rather, it is in the meaning of the South's bitter and beautiful history, the spiritual significance of the Lost Cuase never wholly lost, the importance of State's rights, that Virginia and the South should instruct the American people.

The Centennial observance, more than anything else, must be a concerted and high-minded attempt to get at the meaning of the Civil War, and through it at the meaning of American history. We must teach the rest of the country, and our selves as well.

Pageants, colorful ceremo[nies], bus-loads of adults and school [chil]dren are fine, but they are [not] enough. It was blood, not red [ink], that was spilled on the battle[fields] of the South almost a hundred y[ears] ago, and they are men, not f[igures] in a bloodless tapestry, who [are] buried in Hollywood Cemetery. [If] in the decade that is ahead A[meri]cans can be helped to learn what [the] South fought for, and what m[anner] of men they were, all the time [and] expense of observing the Cent[ennial] of the Civil War will have been [well] spent.

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Around Your Home

By Frances Dell

[The]re is a popular tendency among [home]makers today to mix furniture [of d]ifferent periods. This mixing of [tradi]tional and contemporary fur[nish]ings is said by some decorators [to fo]recast a new style in home de[cora]tions.

[Th]is blending of periods is cer[tain]ly a practical idea. Almost [ever]yone of us has an old desk, sofa [or ch]est that belonged to our Grand[moth]er for which we feel a great [deal] of affection.

[Ho]wever, a great many people [pre]fer modern or contemporary fur[nitu]re for the most part in their [home]s. This new trend probably [stem]s from their desire to enjoy the [new] and the old.

[A] large number of modern pieces [are] being produced in medium rather [than] pale colors, while traditional [furn]iture is being made in many of [the l]ighter woods. The coresponding [wood] tones make it possible to use [table]s, chairs and such in the same [room] even though they are not re[lated] in styling.

[M]odern hardwood veneer furniture [not] only brings out the full beauty [of] the wood grain, but it is much [more] durable when of a good quali[ty th]an many solid pieces. Curved [line]s are possible with the new [glue]s and hardwood veneers. Al[so v]eneer matching has been per[fecte]d to the point where almost any [desire]d effect in wood pattern can [be ha]d.

All this permits unlimited selec[tion] in design, color, and pattern. [It] makes it simple to find pieces [of d]ifferent periods which look well [tog]ether.

[On]e well known decorator stated [that] he has always preferred mixing [peri]ods because it gives a variety to [room]s that can be gotten in no oth[er wa]y.

[O]NE 7-HOUR DAY A WEEK?

[Los] Angeles.- Joseph Prender[gast], executive of the National Re[creation]al Association of New York, [rece]ntly predicted that men will [work] one seven-hour day a week [20] years from now and receive [the sa]me pay they now get for a [fou]r week. He said the work week [was] 84 hours 100 years ago and, [in] 20 years, it will be 30 hours.

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THE BIBLE SPEAKS

International Uniform Sunday School Lessons
BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Background Scripture: Nehemiah 1; 2; 4; 6; 12:27-31, 36, 43.
Devotional Reading: Nehemiah 1:6-11.

Executive Task

Lesson for September 11, 1955

THE city of Jerusalem was a slum. There is no other good word for it. The people, poor and few and scared, were existing in the midst of rubble. Today in Korea the cardboard shacks are coming down, more permanent houses are being built; but in Jerusalem there was no rebuilding. Everything was left just as it was after the war. How long had that been? One hundred and forty-one years! Four generations —as far back from Nehemiah's time as 1814 is from us. Suppose the city of Washington had never been rebuilt, since the British burned it in the "war of 1812"? Nehemiah was amazed and shocked when he heard about it. Like all prosperous Jews who lived in Persia, he had supposed everything was all right back in the motherland. When they told him how things actually were, he first cried; but then he acted.

Dr. Foreman

Competition

Nehemiah, armed with a royal commission — for Palestine was now a part of the great Persian Empire—turned out to be one of the most remarkable executives in history. He went to Jerusalem as governor; but he saw it was no real city. In those days you could no more have a city without a wall around it than you can have a city today without paved streets, or telephones. The wall was an absolute number one Must. No doubt previous governors had seen as much; but they had done nothing about it. Nehemiah at once went to work on this problem. In 52 days the wall was completed; 52 days to do what for 93 years (since the first "Return") every one else in charge of Jerusalem had failed to do. How did Nehemiah succeed where so many others had failed—or not even tried? The answer, in one sentence, is: Nehemiah was the kind of executive who can make hindrances and handicaps work for him instead of against him. One of the handicaps obviously was the many jealous divisions among the people. The class-spirit can be shown just as easily in a group of castaways on a desert island, as it can in New York. Nehemiah knew all about this; and he organized his wall-builders by groups according to their occupation. The goldsmiths built here, and the priests built there, and so on. No group wanted to be outdone by any other group, so they all pushed on till it was done. It takes healthy competition to bring out what people can really do.

Fear Can Be Useful

Perhaps the big reason why the wall had never been built was that the people, ill-equipped and leaderless, knew that their watchful enemies would not want Jerusalem to rise again. They were afraid of "reprisals" or raids from one place or another, if they really set to work to build a real city again. Now Nehemiah did not wait till they got over being scared. They never would. So he (so to speak) tied that scare to their coat-tails, like a pack of firecrackers. He ordered the citizens, as far as it was practical, to build the part of the wall nearest to where they lived. Every man and woman (yes, there were women) working on the wall would think: If this section of wall goes down, my own home will be the first one pillaged! So of course these scared people worked like mad, each one determined that if the wall gave way anywhere, it wouldn't be near his house.

Putting Human Nature To Work

All that business about the spears, and other army equipment—ordering half the people to stand by in battle dress while the rest worked on the wall—may have scared off the enemy raiders; but it did something else: it got the wall built in an amazingly short time. Just the sight of those spears would put everybody into high gear. They wanted to finish that wall before the battle started. It never started; but Nehemiah's dramatic mobilization kept those amateur wall-builders going from dawn till dark. So Nehemiah showed in his time what the best executives have always shown: the skill to use human nature as it is, on the hoof. Executives—governors, presidents, heads of corporations, bishops—could doubtless get better results with better people.

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WASHINGTON NOTES

CHILD HEALTH

The Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, reports that infant mortality has been cut in half and the 2,000 mothers who will die this year in childbirth represent but a fraction of the number dying from the same cause in 1935. The nation has made great strides in improving prospects of life and health for both mothers and children.

THE FORRESTAL

An idea of the size of the Navy's new supercarrier Forrestal may be had from the statement that the entire population of a city of 40,000 persons could stand on the hangar deck, which is said to be the world's largest, unbroken, enclosed space. It is three and a half city blocks long and could accomodate 18 full-size basketball courts. The overhead sprinkling system can spray water on the deck at the rate of 18,000 gallons a minute.

AEROTRAIN

General Motor's answer to the soaring cost of operating passenger trains is its experimental "Aerotrain." Seating 400 persons in ten 40-foot coaches, the low - slung modernistic train presents several railroad first. Powered by a 12-cylinder, 1,200-horsepower engine, the "aerotrain's" low center of gravity —45 inches above the rails—and its lightweight construction make it capable of a top speed of 102 miles per hour. The locomotive costs $200,000 and the passenger cars can be built for $1,000 a seat.

VA HOME LOANS

The Veterans Administration has announced that applications for GI home loan guarantees dropped 7½ per cent in July but still topped the 50,000 mark for the twelfth straight month. A total of 54,310 applications were received in July, compared with 58,738 in June.

TARIFF ON BICYCLES

President Eisenhower has ordered an immediate 50 per cent tariff on all imported bicycles to protect the American producers from "serious injury." The tariff hike is expected to raise the wholesale cost of imported bicycles in the United States by from $1 to $3 if foreign manufacturers add the duty increase to their selling price.

BUSY CONGRESS

The first session of the 84th Congress, statistically speaking, turned out 390 new public laws, 35 per cent more than the first session of the 83rd Congress. It confirmed 39,897 of President Eisenhower's nominations, compared with 23,420 in 1953, although the percentage of approval was slightly smaller.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIPS

At least 27 Senators - more than one-third of the body's membership —are planning or are enjoying official or private trips to foreign countries while Congress is adjourned. The biggest lures this year are Russia, the Geneva atoms-for-peace conference, and the meeting of the Interparliamentary Union in Helsinki.

BUILDING DROPS

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has announced an eleven per cent drop in July home construction, which it traces to a voluntary tightening of housing credit. Non - farm building starts in July fell to 115,000 units from 129,000 in June.

GENERAL MOTORS

Sales and earnings of the giant General Motors Corporation smashed all records during the first half of this year. Sales amounted to $6,500,000,000 worth of goods for a net profit of $661,000,000. United States and foreign income taxes for the six months totaled $767,000,000.

NICKEL

The Federal Government doubled the amount of nickel available for the production of consumer goods this month, while checking on the need for further curbs on scrap iron and steel exports. The actions bespoke concern over strains put on the nation's metal supply by high civilian production.

Soviet coal production has spurted and will total 390,000,000 tons this year. The rate of increase indicates that coal production will in a few years exceed the 1960 goal of 500,000,000 tons.

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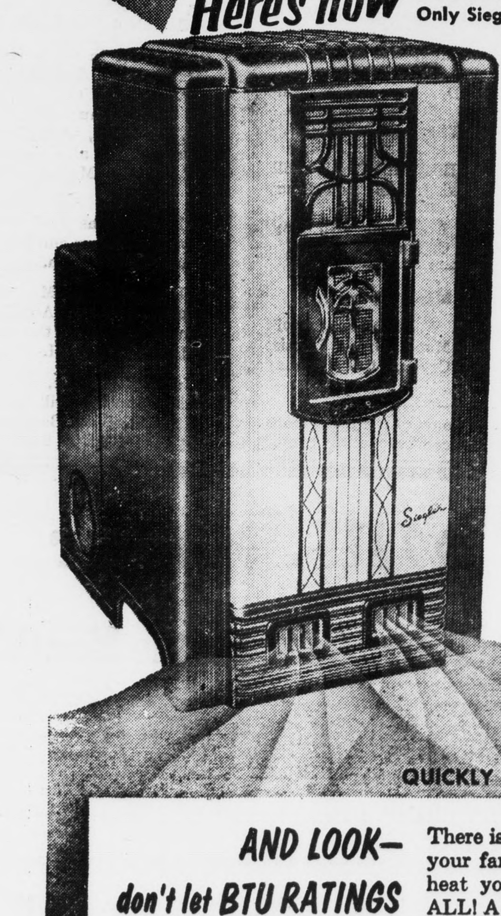

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